Exploitation of Polymetallic Nodules in Indian Ocean

@423-C. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two mining sites covering a vast area with rich deposits of Polymetallic Nodules have been identified in the ocean bed in the centre of the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, what specific steps have since been taken for their exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Two mines sites, each approximately of 150,000 sq. kilometers area, have been identified in the Central Indian Ocean.

(b) An application has been filed with the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority for allotment of one of the two sites to India. Research and Development work on mining will be undertaken as soon as the allotment has been made. Meanwhile, extensive survey and exploration work and laboratory scale extraction of metals from nodules are being carried out.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1449, transferred from the 9th May, 1986.

12.00 NOON

Papers laid on the Table

Assessment Report (1984-85) on the Porgramme and its implementation for accelarating the spread and development of Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Assessment Report on the programme and its implementation for accelerating the spread and development of Hindi and its progressive use for the various official purposes of the Union for the year 1984-85.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—2658/86]

Supreme Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Amendment Rules, 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (5) of section 24 of the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice) Notification G.S.R. No. 175, dated the 8th March, 1986 publishing the Supreme Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Amendment Rules, 1986. [Placed in Library, *See* No. 2661/86]

I. Consolidated Report (for the year ended the 31st December, 1984) on the working of Public Sector Banks

II. Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Consolidated Report on the